

KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
January 19th, 2010
4:30 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge

Members Present: Kathy Woods Masalski (Interim Chair), Denise Boyd, Florence Boynton, Jule Dupre, Byron Koh (Secretary), Nancy Pagano, Aaron Kropf, Amy Springer

Others: Aaron Hayden, (Select Board Liaison)

Members Absent: Helen MacMellon, Bill Hutchinson, Stephanie Joyce

Minutes of December 8th, 2009: Accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Florence reported that there is \$1455.63 in the KSCC account at Town Hall.

Communications from Kanegasaki:

- Byron has received a letter from Mayor Yoshiichi Takahashi with New Year's greetings. The March 24-27th visit to Amherst by Kanegasaki middle school students was also reconfirmed.
- Nancy P. has emailed Miyuki information about Yoshi, the South Hadley Japanese artist that Mayor Takahashi inquired about. Nancy also sent postcards of Yoshi's paintings and copies of newspaper clippings discussing his local exhibits by regular mail.

Old Business:

- **FUNDRAISING BROCHURE**
Jule showed many fine optional pictures that could accompany the brochure as well as optional formats. In the discussion that followed, the Committee agreed that the establishment of a database to mail the brochures is necessary. Aaron Hayden volunteered to establish such a database. Members will send him lists of names and address to be included.
- **SUBCOMMITTEE ON HISTORY/DOCUMENTS**
Kathy will ask the Jones Library for storage space for the box of KSCC archival material. There the Committee could meet to arrange the material.
- **MARCH VISIT OF KANEGASAKI MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS** (Denise reviewed the KSCC schedule. See below.)
Wednesday, March 24th, noon arrival— After stowing luggage at Town Hall, students will have a pizza lunch at the Bangs Community Center before starting their tour. (Nancy has not yet heard from Officer Mike Sullivan confirming that he will drive the van so she is looking for an alternative driver.) **4:30 PM Town Hall Welcoming Ceremony** Nancy P. arranged for the room and she and Florence will handle refreshments as usual. The order of speakers is: Aaron Hayden, Larry Shaffer, Byron and Denise. **5:30 PM Supper with Chaperones** KSCC members interested are invited to have dinner with the Kanegasaki chaperones. (Nancy, Jule, Carl, Aaron K. and Denise)
Thursday, March 25th—Again, KSCC members are invited to have supper with chaperones. Dinner will be at Bertucci's (Teachers: Ann Louise, Sara and Bert will be invited; Nancy P., Denise, Aaron H. & Amy, Denise will participate.)
Friday, March 26th—Potluck for chaperones at Jule's home will include Aaron H., Amy, Aaron K., Florence, Nancy. Members should email Jule to tell who will attend.
Saturday, March 27th—Nancy will take chaperones to Yankee Candle, the Candy Kitchen and lunch and then drop them off at the bowling alley. **Farewell Dinner at 5:30 PM** is a potluck at the Amherst Regional High School. All Committee members are invited. Byron will speak. We agreed that our gifts to the Kanegasaki adults will be presented at this event. Denise will forward detailed schedules to all for the visit. She has included new activities this year such as the Eric Carle Museum and the Hitchcock Center.

New Business:

- **Protocol Issues**

The Committee agreed that Committee members' and others' correspondence with Mayor Takahashi and Miyuki be first submitted to the Committee Chair. Nancy Pagano who is serving as the Amherst to Kanegasaki Liaison ("Miyuki in Amherst") will forward such correspondence.

- **Outreach Activities (Amy's summary):**

As a result of looking over the KSCC documents, we discussed a few action items, one, as Kathy mentioned, was a subcommittee to organize the committee archives. Another that is long-term, would be a subcommittee to develop a strategic plan for the committee, including activities and fundraising goals. And finally, we thought of some shorter term outreach-type activities that might not require a lot of effort, but would help with maintaining visibility in the community. The following ideas are not original to us, and we hope some committee members will be interested in taking on one of these tasks.

- ❖ Update the display in Town Hall. (Nancy P. will look into how to get the display open, and let us know what is in it. Aaron Kropf will be able to work on it during February school break.) Nancy will send members an email detailing what is in the Town Hall Kanegasaki Sister City display. We will suggest additions, subtractions. It is in need of renovation.
- ❖ A plaque for the Kanegasaki cherry tree, to commemorate the sister city relationship (Is it really the only remaining tree? We need to find out and Amy will look into this.)
- ❖ A banner over East Pleasant St. to welcome the Kanegasaki school children—how much would it cost, how far in advance do we reserve the space? Is there time to do it for 2010? (Nancy knows a local shop that makes banners.)
- ❖ Contact the local papers to encourage a story or picture of the students during their visit. (Does someone already do this?)
- ❖ A booth at the "Taste of Japan" event at UMass, with brochures.
- ❖ Get a library liaison. Maybe have someone on the committee keep in contact with the liaison. (There was discussion of approaching Bonnie Isman about shipping the rest of the gift books to Kanegasaki that have been waiting to go.)
- ❖ A social networking venue for us to share thoughts with Kanegasaki. (We agreed we needed a subcommittee to discuss what form this should take. We might need some new tech-savvy committee members too! Julie would be willing to work on the subcommittee but no one else has yet volunteered.)
- ❖ Other ideas are of course welcome.

- **Election of Chair**

Julie will be Interim Chair for February, 2010. Amy will be Interim Chair for March, 2010.

- **Tracking Expenses**

Kathy asked Committee members to keep track of their personal expenses involved with the March visit of the Kanegasaki middle school children.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting ended at about 6 PM. The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, February 17th, at 4 PM in the Alice Dowd Lounge of the Amherst Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted, Byron Koh, Secretary (with contributions by Amy Springer and Nancy Pagano)